

# Town of Acton

## SIDEWALK COMMITTEE

September 12, 2012  
Acton Memorial Library  
7:00 pm.

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### MEETING Minutes

**Attendees:** Bettina Abe, Leslie Hogan, Sytske Campbell, Pam Cochrane, Dick Calandrella, Steve Evans, Dana Snyder-Grant, Selectman John Sonner.

#### **Citizen's Concerns**

An Acton Patch discussion of sidewalks was recapped. There was some citizen concern about the sidewalk gap on Arlington St. between Summer St. and Mass Ave. Dick will look at it, check over rating sheet, and we can review next month. River and Piper and School Streets also mentioned. We were copied on a number of emails from a Central St. Resident to the Highway Department regarding sidewalk repairs needed, which seem to have been satisfactorily taken care of.

#### **July Minutes**

Approved as amended.

#### **Engineering Update**

#### **Misc**

The Highway Dept is finishing up a lot of sidewalk repair around town. Some work is done by town staff, other work is done by a paving contractor they hire. Summer St was done by another contractor, town crew is finishing up on Mass Ave in W Acton now.

The town has applied for a State grant (DOT?) to improve sidewalks and road construction in general (crosswalks, possible bike lanes) in Kelly's Corner area. Engineering did not expect \$ this year but was hoping the Grantor would provide feedback, and work on plans together, and receive funding in future.

#### **Martin St.**

After many delays the town crew said they will be doing Martin St sidewalk next week, definitely this fall.

#### **Summer St.**

NStar had an issue with their tree removal contractor which is now worked out. They are waiting to hear when the tree removal will be scheduled, then they can proceed with sidewalk construction. No change, still waiting on NStar.

### **Summer St, near Central**

A few homeowners are not in agreement yet with sidewalk plan. Engineering is working through this and talking with them to try to work things out. Easements will be needed so the town cannot do without agreement. This part is not likely to happen this calendar year. No Change.

### **High St.**

Engineering has spoken to many of the homeowners now and is working with them on their issues. They have changed the layout to be right beside the street (no buffer) in some areas to accommodate property owners. Many owners now seem to be more agreeable. One resident has yet to reply will be contacted one more time.

Engineering is reworking the sidewalk design (existing sidewalk) by Audubon Hill entrance due to bad sight lines when turning left on High St. They hope to take down some trees, move a stone wall, and move the sidewalk in front of the wall.

### **Great Rd.**

East of Main St is still progressing. They have a permit for soil borings which is the next step in bridge design. They are deciding whether to use the bridge the state has offered them or build their own. They will work on design over the winter.

West of Main St is stalled now. They need to wait for Quail Ridge to complete their work widening the road, then they can design the sidewalk. We have the funds; it does not sound like Quail Ridge will be working on the sidewalk construction now.

### **Great Rd Harris West**

The town started doing the survey work from Harris St to Nonset Path (far west by Nagog Hill main entrance).

### **Taylor Road**

Nothing new to report. Engineering will send out more letters as they have not heard back from enough people.

### **Train tracks**

MBTA has done some track work but stopped; they are expected come back to finish Central St (near Idylwilde), Arlington St and Mass Ave altogether. Martin St, other Central St. crossings will not be completed until toward the end of construction of train station.

### **Stow Street**

The town can start the survey this winter. There is another brook crossing (near Jones Field) so another bridge will need to be constructed which is time consuming. There are a lot of wetlands on one side of the road. Engineering said they don't have an opinion yet about which side of the road makes more sense for the sidewalk

Members of the Sidewalk Committee expressed concern about, in general, ***sidewalk Construction or Repair by outside contractors not following our sidewalk guidelines***, and specifically, the safety of the berms recently constructed on Summer Street between Arlington and Ethan Allen, and on Arlington between Hayward and St. Elizabeth's church. Specifications given to contractors should specify our sidewalk design guidelines. ► Co-chair Bettina Abe will communicate this to the Highway Dept.

► (Chairs) The Next meeting (October) of the sidewalk committee should include on the agenda: a prioritization review of:

- Arlington Street gap.
- Brook st.

Motion made, seconded and passed: (6 aye, 0 nay, 0 abstention)

The Sidewalk Committee will communicate to Engineering that we support building the Stow St (Maple to Martin) sidewalk concurrently with other construction at the South Acton Train Station. ► Steve will send.

#### **Safe Routes to School (followup)**

Heather Ross would like to setup a meeting with the Conant School Principal, and citizens.

#### **Text for Sidewalk Committee Comments to the Planning Board if the Sidewalk Committee does not feel a Sidewalk is necessary in a new development**

We worked wonder with words, and the winning wording was:

“The Sidewalk Committee requests a contribution be made to the sidewalk fund, using the established formula, in lieu of building a sidewalk for this project/development.”

(Motion made and seconded to approve: 6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions: passed).

#### **SATSAC (South Acton Train Station) update**

SATSAC Would like a Stow St. sidewalk (Martin to Maple).

David Martin (SATSAC chair) is hereby invited to our October meeting.

The south side station will be closed summer 2013 during constuction. Stow St will therefore get heavier pedestrian traffic, and it would be important to have a sidewalk by then.

Meeting adjourned 8:12 pm.

Respectfully, Steve Evans

*Open Meeting law requires that the following must be included in the minutes:*

- ✓ Date, place, time and matters discussed.
- ✓ Summaries of discussions
- ✓ List of documents used
- ✓ Decisions made
- ✓ Actions taken
- ✓ Record of all votes (yeas, nays and abstentions).
- ✓ A list of all documents and other exhibits, such as photographs, recordings, maps and presentations used by the body at the open or executive session.

**Future Meetings Planned:** (All at 7pm at the Acton Memorial Library Conference Room, on the second Wednesday of the month)

**2012:** Oct 10 Nov 14 Dec 12